

## Public Safety and Neighborly Regulations

### Vision...

*Create a neighborhood that is safe, healthy, and enjoyable to work and play.*

One of the great benefits of Belltown is that, due to a combination of topography and location, it is a neighborhood where walking can be a resident's primary means of transportation. However, feedback received during our outreach efforts has told us that many people who live in Belltown do not feel safe on many of the neighborhood streets, especially at night.

Whether the lack of safety of our streets is perceived or real, meeting the vision stated above will require removing elements that cause the perception and building individual confidence through community programs.

The neighborhood is fortunate to have the Denny Regrade Crime Prevention Council (DRCPC) to work with the Seattle Police Department to develop and facilitate community programs. The DRCPC, begun in 1990, grew out of the interest of residents who participate in the neighborhood Block Watch program.

The stated purpose of the Crime Prevention Council is to promote safety in the Denny Regrade by addressing those issues that directly involve crime and safety and issues that are related to crime and safety. The DRCPC meets once a month and is open to anyone who lives, works or owns property in the neighborhood.

Among the programs initiated and facilitated by the DRCPC is the Denny Regrade Action Team or DRAT. DRAT is people joining together to walk through the neighborhood, focusing on places where criminal activity is known to occur. DRAT is non-confrontational, but experience has shown that the presence of a group of citizens walking in the neighborhood creates discomfort for those engaged in illegal activities.

The frequency of DRAT walks depends on the availability of participants. Walks will not occur with less than five participants. The goal is to have three DRAT walks per week, varying between mornings and evenings.

Anyone wishing to join DRAT should call Terry Johnston, Seattle

**Recommendation: Develop an Outreach Brochure to inform residents and businesses about DRAT and encourage broad participation.**



*participants*

Although DRAT is effective, its effects are only temporary. One of the single most effective ways of making the streets safer on a permanent basis is through the strategic use of lighting. Much of the current street lighting in Belltown is located above the top of street trees and is oriented over the street. Consequently, except at street intersections, the light is obscured by the trees and the sidewalks remain dark.

Belltown residents appreciate their alleys for pedestrian and bicycle use, and there are recommendations elsewhere in this Plan for enhancing their use. However, alleys are also a source of concern because of undesirable activities that occur there.

**Recommendation: Work with Seattle City Light to install pedestrian oriented lighting on the streets, with 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue being the highest priority.**

**Recommendation: Work with Seattle City Light and property owners to install alley lighting connected to property owners' electrical system.**

**Recommendation: Work with METRO to provide better lighting at bus stops.**

Denny Regrade Park at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Bell Street is the only publicly owned open space in the neighborhood. Although neighborhood children use the playground equipment on occasion, the park has a reputation of drug activity and violence.

Based on observation by the Crime Prevention Council, there are several recommendations for re-design of the park that would make it a more desirable place for residents.

**Recommendation: Move the concrete sculpture to another location in the neighborhood.**

**Recommendation: Move the toilets and the pay telephones to a location near the Fire Station at 4<sup>th</sup> and Battery.**

**Recommendation: Replace sandbox and grass with safe and easily maintained rubberized playground surface.**

There are other organizations that can be credited with helping to make Belltown a safer neighborhood. The Denny Regrade Business Association has sponsored neighborhood clean-up and are responsible for the development of an improvement plan for Bell Street between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Elliott. The project includes the clean up and lighting of the area under the SR 99 viaduct. This effort should be supported and expanded so that all the remnant parcels around the tunnel entrance are beautified and made less attractive for undesirable activities.

Other organizations in the neighborhood should be encouraged to follow the DRBA's lead in targeting a particular problem and creating a solution.

**Recommendation: Work with the City to promote the Adopt-a-Street program among community organization, condominium associations, and other groups.**

## Community Enrichment and Social Services

### Vision...

*Develop a plan based on creative collective ideas to enrich the community resources available to residents. This will include as major projects creating an elementary school in the central community as well as a Community Center. Belltown is home to many social service providers. We shall aim to make the efforts of this subcommittee facilitate increased inter-communication between these service providers and the community at large.*

**Objective:** To develop a Neighborhood Center that provides facilities and services for neighborhood residents.

### Background

One of the primary goals of the Neighborhood Plan in terms of community enrichment is the development of a Neighborhood Center. This is included in a Key Strategy to Sustain Belltown's Character.

In developing a program for the Neighborhood Center, it is essential to consider the diversity of the population of Belltown in terms of income, age and avocation. It is also important to recognize the facility and service needs of a vibrant and active urban residential community.

**identifies the appropriate facilities and services for a Belltown Neighborhood Center and identify alternative sites for the center.**

**Objective:** To develop a plan based on creative collective ideas to enrich the community resources available to residents.

### Background

Belltown is home to many social services providers. We shall aim to make the effort to facilitate increased communication between the service providers and the community at large.

**Recommendation:** In all aspects of the Neighborhood Plan and in future community activities, recognize the importance of social service providers to Belltown and the larger downtown community.

# Acknowledgements

## *Denny Regrade Planning Committee*

*Zander Batchelder, Co-chair, Planning Committee*

*Jeffery Sparks, Co-Chair, Planning Committee; Chair, Community Enrichment and Social Services*

*Joan Paulson, Chair, Housing and Land Use*

*Peter Voorhees, Co-chair, Transportation and Pedestrian Environment*

*Bea Kumasaka, Co-chair, Transportation and Pedestrian Environment; Downtown Urban Center Planning Group (DUCPG)*

*Linda Ciotti, Chair, Public Safety and Neighborly Regulations; Denny Regrade Crime Prevention Council*

*Gretchen Apgar, Planning Committee Facilitator*

*Carolyn Geise, Growing Vine Street Steering Committee; DUCPG*

*Tom Graff, Denny Regrade Business Association*

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